

Proclamation 7784—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2004

May 7, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Law enforcement officers are among America's greatest heroes. Every day, these men and women protect our families, homes, businesses, and communities.

Our dedicated peace officers put themselves at great risk while working tirelessly on the front lines in the fight against crime, violence, and terrorism. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, last year, 145 law enforcement officers made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the line of duty, while thousands of others were injured protecting our citizens from harm. On Peace Officers Memorial Day and throughout Police Week, we honor the memory of the fallen and recognize those who devote their lives to enforcing our laws, bringing criminals to justice, and making America safer and better.

Over the past year, many in our law enforcement community have been activated as Reservists or members of the National Guard. We are grateful to these officers and all our military personnel for answering the call to service, for their commitment to duty, and for the sacrifices they are making in defense of freedom.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2004, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 9 through May 15, 2004, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 12, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 8, 2004

Good morning. In recent days, America and the world have learned of shocking conduct in Iraqi prisons by a small number of American service men and women. These individuals had been given the responsibility of overseeing Iraqis in American custody and doing so in a decent and humane manner consistent with U.S. law and the Geneva Conventions. Instead we have seen shameful images of prisoners being subjected to abuse and humiliation. Such practices do not reflect our values. They are a stain on our country's honor and reputation.

Shortly after reports of abuse became known to our military, an investigation was launched. Today, several formal investigations, led by senior military officials, are underway. Some soldiers have already been charged with crimes. We will learn all the facts and determine the full extent of these abuses. Those involved will be identified. They will answer for their actions. All prison operations in Iraq will be thoroughly reviewed to make certain that similar disgraceful incidents are never repeated.

What took place in that Iraqi prison was the wrongdoing of a few and does not reflect the character of the more than 200,000 military personnel who have served in Iraq since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. America is a compassionate country that believes in justice and in freedom. Americans believe in the worth and rights and dignity of every person.

Our country has sent troops into Iraq to liberate that country, return sovereignty to the Iraqi people, and make America and the world more secure. In this cause, our troops

perform a thousand acts of kindness, decency, and courage every day. More than 700 Americans have given their lives. The brave and honorable soldiers, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen, and marines who are serving and sacrificing in Iraq, not the few who have let us down, show the true character of America. The men and women of our military have my complete confidence as they carry on with their mission.

This has been a difficult few weeks. Yet our forces will stay on the offensive, finding and confronting the killers and terrorists who are trying to undermine the progress of democracy in Iraq. To address the violence in Fallujah, our marines are working with Iraqis to conduct operations in and around the city. They are using targeted force to strike former Ba'athists and other militants, surrounding the city to prevent the escape of enemy fighters, and taking every precaution to avoid hurting the innocent.

In the city of Najaf, an illegal militia is attempting to incite violence and seize control. The 1st Armored Division is steadily and systematically defeating these enemy forces while seeking to protect the people and the holy sites of that city. Elements of this militia have been ejected from the Najaf Governor's office, which they had been occupying.

The vast majority of Iraqi people want a free society, and next month they will take another historic step forward when they regain sovereignty. On June 30th, a sovereign Iraqi interim government will assume authority, and Iraqis will take over the functions of their state, from basic services to law enforcement to diplomacy. On that day, the Coalition Provisional Authority will cease to exist, and relations with a new Iraqi Government will be conducted through our new embassy.

Our mission in Iraq will continue on July 1st and beyond. We have no intention of leaving that nation at the mercy of thugs and murderers. We're determined to help build a free and stable Iraq, a nation at peace with its neighbors and with the world.

Our Nation is grateful to the men and women of our military and to their families who face hardship and long separation. Our people in uniform are the best of America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:24 a.m. on May 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Ceremony Honoring the Millennium Challenge Account Nations

May 10, 2004

Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. Welcome. Thanks for coming to the White House.

Two years ago, I announced a new and hopeful approach in America's aid to developing nations. Under this approach, America has pledged to increase development assistance by 50 percent over 3 years. To make sure that governments make the right choices for their people, we link new aid to clear standards of economic, political, and social reform. We invited governments in developing nations to meet those standards so that they may truly serve their people.

America formed the Millennium Challenge Corporation to oversee this new program. Last week, the first group of Millennium Challenge Account nations was selected. I congratulate representatives with us today from Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Vanuatu. You have chosen the path of reform, and your people and your nations are better off as a result of the decisions your governments have made.

I want to thank the Secretary of State for leading this effort. He is the chairman of the board of the new Corporation. I appreciate other board members who are with us: Secretary John Snow, the Secretary of the Treasury; Ambassador Bob Zoellick, the United States Trade Representative; Andrew Natsios, the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development; and Paul Applegarth, who is the CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation.